

REMARKS

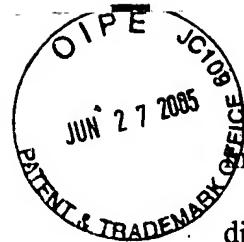
Claims 1-39 are pending; claims 18-39 are allowed; claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-17 are rejected; and claims 3, 4 and 6 are objected to in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 are amended hereby and claims 2 and 3 are cancelled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 5 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph Applicants have amended claims 5, 7 and 9 to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 5 and 9-15 do now distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as their invention and that the claims are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,656,344 (Sawa et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,415,612 (Carlson et al.), Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claims 2 and 3, and since the Examiner has indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if placed in independent form, the placing of the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1 should place claim 1 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 and claims 5, 7-9 and 13-17 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 18-39 and the indication that claims 3, 4, 6 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have placed the limitations of claims 3 into claim 1 and placed claims 4 and 10 in independent form as suggested by the Examiner.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the

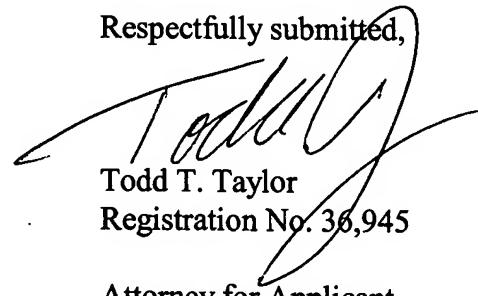


Invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: June 23, 2005.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

June 23, 2005

Date

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